

**JOINT STAFF REPORT
WINTER FACT SHEET NO. 3
Columbia River Compact
March 7, 2002**

Purpose:	To review ongoing commercial fisheries and consider commercial fishing options in the mainstem Columbia River.
TAC:	This Fact Sheet was not reviewed by the TAC.

MANAGEMENT GUIDELINES

Endangered Species Act (ESA)

- Fisheries being considered at this Compact are addressed in a Section 7/10 Application outlining proposed non-Indian fisheries that the states of Washington and Oregon submitted to the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) on November 3, 2000.
- The ESA limits aggregate fishery impacts to $\leq 2\%$ for listed wild steelhead and $\leq 6\%$ for listed hatchery steelhead.

Interim Management Agreement

- An Interim Management Agreement covering fisheries for upriver spring chinook, summer chinook, and sockeye is in effect for 2001-2003.
- The Interim Management Agreement includes a sliding scale spring chinook harvest matrix for 2001-2005 and allocates upriver impacts between non-Indian and treaty Indian fisheries for 2001-2003.
- Based on preseason run size forecasts the Interim Management Agreement limits impacts to listed upriver spring chinook to $\leq 2\%$ for non-Indian fisheries and $\leq 12\%$ for treaty Indian fisheries in 2002.

Non-Indian Upriver Impact Allocation

- Non-Indian fisheries will be managed in accordance with the guiding principles, fishery management objectives, and impact sharing matrix adopted by the Oregon and Washington Fish and Wildlife Commissions and the Columbia River Compact.
- Based on preseason run size forecasts the impacts sharing matrix allocates the non-Indian upriver impact limit 60% for mainstem sport fisheries (1.02% impact rate) and 40% for mainstem commercial fisheries (0.68% impact rate).

Willamette Spring Chinook Management

- The Fisheries Management and Evaluation Plan (FMEP) for Willamette spring chinook limits impacts for all freshwater fisheries in 2002 to $\leq 15\%$ on wild Willamette River spring chinook.
- For 2002 the Willamette River Basin Fish Management Plan (WFMP) allocates surplus hatchery Willamette River spring chinook 73% for sport fisheries and 27% for commercial fisheries.

- Based on the preseason run size forecast the WFMP allocates 9,700 surplus hatchery Willamette spring chinook to mainstem commercial fisheries in 2002.

Zone 6 Sturgeon Catch Guidelines

- The Sturgeon Management Task Force (SMTF) met on January 28 to discuss recommendations for 2002 Zone 6 sturgeon fishery management guidelines.
- At the January 31, 2002 hearing the Compact adopted catch guidelines for Zone 6 sport and commercial fisheries in 2002.

<i>Zone 6 Sturgeon Catch Guidelines For 2002</i>			
Pool	Sport	Treaty	Total
Bonneville Pool	1,520	1,300	2,820
The Dalles Pool	700	1,100	1,800
John Day Pool	165	335	500
Total	2,385	2,735	5,120

WATER CONDITIONS

- Columbia River flow measured at Bonneville Dam ranged between 120 kcfs and 190 kcfs during the last half of February. Flows typically range between 180 kcfs and 215 kcfs during the month of February.
- The Columbia River has been very warm with water temperatures measured at Bonneville Dam ranging between 44°F and 46°F during the last half of February. Temperatures typically do not exceed 42°F in February.
- The Willamette River has been low and clear with flow measured at Salem of less than 20,000 cfs since February 28 and visibility at Willamette Falls exceeding two feet since March 1.

COMMERCIAL FISHERIES

Non-Indian Winter Sturgeon Season

- The winter sturgeon season consisting of 11 30-hour fishing periods was completed on February 15.
- Catches were as expected with 2,709 white sturgeon and 151 marked spring chinook landed during this fishery.

Non-Indian Salmon Commercial Tangle Net Demonstration Fishery

- At the January 31, 2002 Compact hearing six 14-hour daylight fishing periods were adopted for all of Zones 1-5.
- Catches during the first four fishing periods were less than expected with an estimated 747 marked spring chinook and 11 white sturgeon landed.
- Landings during the first four fishing periods steadily increased from 119 marked chinook during the first fishing period to 230 marked chinook during the fourth fishing period.
- During the first four fishing periods staff has monitored a total of 88 boats and 193 drifts.

- Based on monitoring results through the first four fishing periods the immediate mortality rate for unmarked chinook is zero % and 90% of the chinook were released in condition 1 (vigorous, not bleeding).
- The mark rate for chinook has ranged between 46%-72% and averaged 59% during the first four fishing periods.

<i>Chinook Catches and Impact Rates</i>								
Fishing Period	Chinook Kept				Chinook Released			
	Total	Upriver Stock	Willamette River Stock	Other Lower River Stock	Total	Upriver Stock	Other Lower River Stocks	Upriver Impacts
Jan 7-Feb 15	151	19	101	31	96	25	71	0.001%
Feb 25-Mar 4	747	273	392	82	527	379	149	0.020%
Totals to Date	898	292	493	113	623	404	220	0.021%

- Through the first four fishing periods the steelhead:chinook ratio was 2.5:1.
- Survival rates of released steelhead have been better than expected with an estimated immediate mortality rate of 1.8%.
- To date 86% of the steelhead handled during this demonstration fishery have been released in condition 1 (vigorous, not bleeding).

Select Area Fisheries

- The Youngs Bay Select Area fishery is scheduled to be open for three 54-hour fishing periods (noon Wednesday-6 PM Friday) per week during February 20 through March 8.
- The Blind Slough Select Area fishery was open for three 12-hour fishing periods (7 PM Monday to 7 AM Tuesday) per week from February 18 through March 4.
- Landings to date have totaled 93 chinook in Youngs Bay and 18 chinook in Blind Slough as compared to 2001 when landings through the same time period were estimated to be 230 chinook in Youngs Bay and 14 chinook in Blind Slough.
- To date zero white sturgeon have been landed in Select Area fisheries.

Treaty Indian Winter Setline Fishery

- The treaty Indian setline fishery was open from noon January 1 through noon January 31.
- Catches were extremely low with landings of one white sturgeon in Bonneville Pool, two white sturgeon in the Dalles Pool, and four white sturgeon in John Day Pool.

Treaty Indian Winter Commercial Fishery

- The winter commercial season is scheduled to be open in all of Zone 6 from noon Friday February 1 through 4 PM Thursday March 21.
- Through March 3 landings have totaled 773 white sturgeon, 6 chinook, 58 steelhead, and 21 walleye.
- Pool specific landings to date, including winter setline fishery, are estimated to be 78 white sturgeon in Bonneville Pool, 550 white sturgeon in The Dalles Pool, and 152 in the John Day

Pool which represent 6% of the Bonneville Pool guideline, 50% of The Dalles Pool guideline, and 45% of the John Day Pool guideline.

- Landings in Bonneville and The Dalles Pool are tracking behind 2001 while landings in the John Day Pool are tracking ahead of 2001.



FISHERY RECOMMENDATION

Non-Indian Salmon Commercial Tangle Net Demonstration Fishery

- The Joint Staff is recommending the following fishing periods to allow the commercial fishery access to their Willamette River hatchery spring chinook allocation.

<i>Joint Staff Recommendation</i>		
•	The Joint Staff is proposing additional fishing periods for the small mesh tangle net demonstration commercial fishery.	
Season:	6 PM Sunday March 10 - 6 PM Monday March 11	(24 Hours)
	6 PM Tuesday March 12 - 6 PM Wednesday March 13	(24 Hours)
	6 PM Thursday March 14 - 6 PM Friday March 15	(24 Hours)
	6 PM Sunday March 17 - 6 PM Monday March 18	(24 Hours)
Area:	Zones 1 - 5.	
Sanctuaries:	Grays River, Gnat Creek, Elokomina-A, Abernathy Creek, Cowlitz River, Kalama -A, Lewis -A, Washougal River, and Sandy river sanctuaries.	
Gear:	Net not to exceed 150 fathoms in length. 5½ maximum mesh size restriction.	
Allowable Sales:	Adipose fin-clipped chinook salmon and sturgeon.	
Participants:	Columbia River commercial fishers with appropriate licenses and legal gear that attended a state-sponsored workshop concerning live captive commercial fishing techniques and possess a permit that allows participation in this fishery.	
Miscellaneous Regulations:	<p>Soak times, defined as time elapsed from when first mesh enters the water to when last mesh leaves the water, must not exceed 45 minutes.</p> <p>Use of recovery boxes will be required on all lethargic or bleeding fish.</p> <p>Each participant will be required to have 2 operable recovery boxes or one box with two chambers in place to participate in fishery. Operable recovery boxes will require a flow of 16-20 gallons per minute to the box or each chamber.</p> <p>Lighted buoys required on each end of nets being fished between sunrise and sunset.</p> <p>Quick Reporting Rule remains in effect for Washington buyers.</p>	

- Impacts to listed salmon and steelhead are well within ESA-related catch limits.
- Catch of Willamette hatchery spring chinook is well below the 9,700 fish catch allocation.
- Increased hours open are intended to increase progress towards hatchery spring chinook catch allocation.
- Night fishing allows for increased catch in clear water conditions.
- Split fishing periods allow for fishery checkpoints between fishing periods.
- Proposed season is not expected to exceed 9,700 Willamette Hatchery fish limit or the 0.68% upriver wild impact limit.
- Steelhead impacts are expected to remain within the 2% limit.

Winter Salmon Season							
	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
F		5 AM-7 PM		5 AM-7 PM		5 AM-7 PM	
E	24	25	26	27	28	1	2
B							
M	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
A	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
R	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
C	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
H	31						
Adopted Seasons:..  Proposed Seasons:.. 							

NEXT COMPACT HEARING

- The Joint Staff recommends that the next Compact hearing occur at 1 PM Tuesday March 19 at the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife headquarters Commission room, located at 2501 SW First Avenue, Portland, Oregon for the purpose of reviewing ongoing fisheries and considering commercial fishing options in the mainstem Columbia River.

Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife
 Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
 March 7, 2002